

6949

Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Testimony Against Raised H.B. No. 6949 AN ACT CONCERNING CHILDHOOD  
VACCINATIONS

By Sarah Kamrath

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Senator Terry Gerratana, Representative Matt Ritter and members of Public Health Committee.

My name is Sarah Kamrath and I am writing to urge you to NOT support HB 6949 as this bill is unconstitutional. It violates the First Amendment "free exercise" of religion.

This bill would require a doctor to provide vaccine education to parents who claim religious exemption. Nothing a doctor says will change one's religious beliefs; doctors have nothing to do with religious beliefs. Parental informed consent is the standard in developed democracies around the world.

CT has one of the highest vaccination rates of any state and no one has even attempted to make a case that religious exemptions are resulting in increased levels of disease. This bill is an added expense to all involved and the bill's language requires parents to engage in compelled speech in order to receive a religious vaccine exemption for their children and is not constitutional.

This is not about the merits of vaccinations. It is about freedom and parental choice.

Sincerely,  
Sarah Kamrath